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A NEW SPECIES OF *TRAVISIA* (POLYCHAETA, OPHELIIDAE) FROM TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

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In a number of ecological studies dealing with Tampa Bay, Florida (Taylor, 1971; Bloom *et al.*, 1972; Simon and Dauer, 1972; Dauer, 1974; Dauer and Simon, 1975, 1976), some polychaetes, identified as *Travisia* sp., were consistently collected in large numbers. Closer examination of the specimens and the literature indicated that they belonged to the new species described herein. The purpose of the present paper is to describe this species.

Travisia hobsonae, new species

Figure 1, a–g

Travisia sp. Taylor, 1971:575–576, fig. 12a.—Bloom, Simon and Hunter, 1972:47.—Simon and Dauer, 1972:232.—Dauer, 1974:66.—Dauer and Simon, 1975:365–367; 1976:107–110.

Material examined: WEST COAST OF FLORIDA: Stump Pass, 21 May 1960, R. T. Paine, 2 specimens (USNM 53265). Off Picnic Island, midway between Weedon Island and Port Tampa, and off Sunset Park-Bel Mar on Interbay Peninsula, Tampa Bay, 29 January 1959, M. L. Jones, 21 specimens (USNM 53266–53270). Tampa Bay, 1963, J. L. Taylor, 12 specimens (USNM 45653). Courtney Campbell Causeway (Middle), 2/6 March and 24 April 1964, J. L. Simon, 123 specimens (USNM 53261–3). Courtney Campbell Causeway (Middle), 17 May 1975, S. L. Santos, holotype (USNM 53476) and 3 paratypes (USNM 53477), 3 paratypes (Allan Hancock Foundation POLY 1142) and 2 paratypes (Invertebrate Zoology Museum, University of South Florida).

Description: Length of holotype 14 mm, width 2 mm, setigerous segments 31. Lengths of 167 specimens ranged from 6 to 27 mm, widths from 0.7 to 4 mm, setigerous segments 30–31 (sometimes fewer in

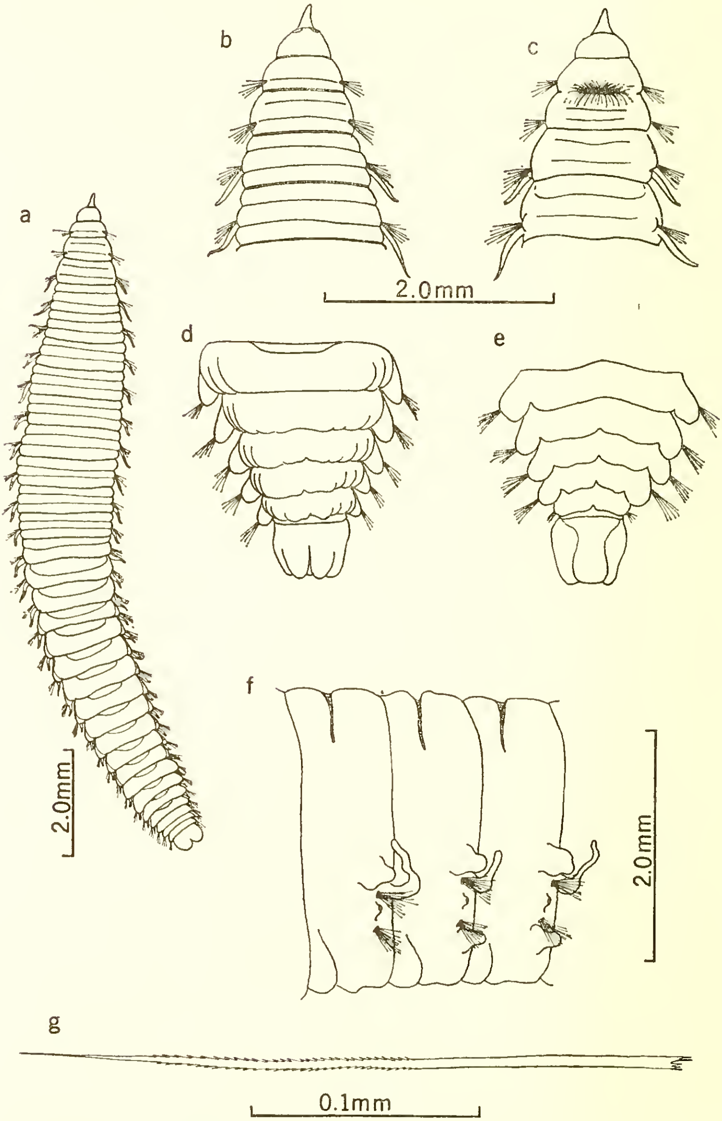

FIG. 1. *Travisia hobsonae* n. spec. a, Holotype, entire animal, dorsal view; b, Holotype, anterior, dorsal view; c, Holotype, anterior, ventral view; d, Paratype, posterior, dorsal view; e, Paratype, posterior, ventral view; f, Holotype, lateral view of setigers 16, 17 and 18 (anterior to left); g, Holotype, hispid seta from 10th notopodium.

juveniles). Branchiae 28–29 pairs (fewer in juveniles). Smallest specimens, possessing 31 setigers and 29 pairs of branchiae, measured 9 mm long by 1.6 mm wide.

Body subfusiform-fusiform, widest at about setigers 12–13, completely covered with small rounded pustulae (Fig. 1a). Slightly developed midventral groove present from about setiger 14 to posterior end, apparently associated with muscular ridges; groove indistinct in living specimens.

Prostomium small, conical, with 2 nuchal pits on dorsal base (Fig. 1b). First segment achaetous. Segment 2 (setiger 1) biannulate dorsally but not ventrally. Noto- and neurosetae inserted on anterior parts of posterior annuli (Fig. 1b). Ventral mouth enclosed by posterior border of setiger 1 and anterior border of setiger 2 (Fig. 1c). Eversible saccular proboscis, well developed, highly folded and smooth. Setigers 2–12 triannulate, with annuli discontinuous laterally. Noto- and neurosetae inserted on anterior parts of posterior annuli. Setigers 13–26 or 27 biannulate, also discontinuous laterally with setae inserted on posterior annuli (Fig. 1f). Setigers 27 or 28 to end entire. Noto- and neuropodial tufts of setae present on all setigers; setae simple capillary and hispid (Fig. 1g).

Notopodial lappets beginning on setiger 1, small to setiger 13, large thereafter to end; neuropodial lappets inconspicuous up to setigers 16, 17 or 18, then becoming large and continuing to end (Fig. 1f). Crenulations or laciniations of the posterior parapodia sometimes present; on larger specimens, entire lateral and dorsal posterior margins of posterior segments crenulated (Fig. 1d).

Nephridiopores on setigers 3–14, slightly anterior and ventral to neuropodial setal tuft. Interramal sensory pits between notopodial and neuropodial setal tufts on all setigers (Fig. 1f).

Branchiae 28–29 pairs, beginning on setiger 3 and continuing to end, simple, cirriform, capable of being withdrawn into body (Fig. 1a).

Pygidium provided with 5 large rounded lobes surrounding terminal anus (Fig. 1e); sometimes 5 major and up to 4 minor lobes in larger specimens.

Color: Living animals pinkish, grayish in alcohol.

Biology: *T. hobsonae* produces a fetid odor when handled and secretes copious amounts of mucus to which sand grains readily adhere, giving the appearance of a more or less definite tube. It occurs in greatest densities in clean medium to fine sand (mean diameter = 0.125 mm).

Type-locality: Tampa Bay, Florida, U.S.A.

Distribution: West Coast of Florida in Tampa Bay and Stump Pass.

Etymology: The species is named in honor of the late Mrs. Katherine D. Hobson, a distinguished polychaete taxonomist and a good friend.

Remarks: *T. hobsonae* resembles *T. fusiformis* Kudenov more closely than any other member of the genus. Both species have a fusiform body, slight midventral groove, sensory pits present on all setigers and

TABLE 1. Differences between *Travisia fusiformis* Kudenov and *Travisia hobsonae* new species.

	T. fusiformis Kudenov	*T. hobsonae* new species
Number of setigerous segments	34–35	30–31
Branchiae	Begin on setiger 2, to end of body	Begin on setiger 3, to end of body
Distribution of pustulae on body	On entire body except distal half of prostomium	On entire body including prostomium
Posterior lateral crenulations	Absent	Present or absent
Parapodial lappets;		
notopodial	Conspicuous throughout	Small on setigers 1–13, large from setiger 14 to end of body
neuropodial	Small papillae on setigers 2–16, well-developed from setiger 17 to end of body	Inconspicuous on setigers 1 through 15, 16 or 17; well-developed on setigers 16, 17 or 18 to end of body

branchiae and setae on all posterior segments. The main differences between the 2 species are summarized in Table 1.

The relative development of the midventral groove in *T. hobsonae* appears to be related to the preparation of the specimens. Those that are incompletely narcotized before fixation show a pronounced groove, whereas the specimens that are properly narcotized exhibit a very slight midventral groove.

Kudenov (1975) feels that the presence of a midventral groove in *T. fusiformis* Kudenov could qualify for the erection of a new genus, with *T. fusiformis* as the type-species. His reasoning is based in part on the definition of *Travisia* Johnston, which includes opheliid polychaetes with grub-like bodies that lack midventral grooves. Kudenov (pers. comm.) also expresses the opinion that the new genus should be defined to include *Travisia*-like opheliids with lateral segmental swellings and fusiform-subfusiform bodies in addition to the midventral grooves.

I have examined some specimens identified as *Travisia forbesii* Johnston (USNM 323), the type-species of the genus, and found them to possess slight midventral grooves, segmentally arranged lateral swellings and fusiform-subfusiform bodies. I feel that any further discussion on the erection of a new genus based on the above-mentioned characters should await the examination of the holotype of *T. forbesii* Johnston.

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